

Volume 8 | Issue 3



March 11, 2016

Board of Supervisors Votes on Advertised Tax Rate

On March 1st, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors voted on its advertised tax rate for fiscal year 2017. The Board voted 7-3 to advertise a tax rate of \$1.13 per \$100 of assessed property valuation. This is a 4 cent increase from last year, made to fund public schools and county services at the recommendation of the County Executive. This is not the final tax rate, but represents the maximum rate the Board can impose when it passes the budget in April. Under the County Executive's proposed increase of \$0.04, the average county homeowner would pay \$303.86 more in property taxes.

In the coming weeks, Supervisor Cook and the rest of the Board of Supervisors will be discussing the budget with the community. The budget is set to be formally adopted on April 26th. There will be numerous town halls covering the budget, as well as three days of budget public hearings at the Fairfax Government Center on April 5-7. Supervisor Cook will be holding a Town Hall on March 28th at 7:30 p.m. at Robinson Secondary School. Megan McLaughlin, our Braddock District School Board Representative, will also be in attendance to answer any questions.



Supervisor Cook has served on Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 2009 and lives in Kings Park with his wife and children.

Budget Summary

On the whole, the County Executive's proposed budget would increase General Fund Disbursements by roughly \$168 million, or 4.42 percent, over the FY 2016 Adopted Budget Plan. The two main expenditure increases are funding for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) which is increased by \$70.57 million, and approximately \$43 million for employee compensation increases. This would provide longevity and performance increases for qualifying general county and public safety employees, and a 1.33 percent Market Rate Adjustment.

Additional proposed budget recommendations include \$13.6 million in reductions, including the elimination of 17 positions. The full reduction list can be found [online](#). This will be a deliberative process, and Supervisor Cook encourages you to share your thoughts. You can reach his office at 703-425-9300 or braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov. Supervisor Cook is committed to keeping his constituents

informed about this critically important issue and will communicate any developments in the weeks ahead.

Board of Supervisors Recognizes April as Donate Life Month

On March 1st, 2016, the Board of Supervisors moved to recognize April as National Donate Life Month at the behest of Supervisor Cook. The motion passed unanimously by the Board, which will invite members of the Commission on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation to come before the Board to be recognized for their dedication to this incredible cause.

More than 121,000 people in the United States are currently on a waiting list to receive an organ transplant – nearly 700 are listed at Inova Fairfax Hospital. Tragically, on average 22 people die every day waiting for organs to become available. By registering to become a donor, each of us has the potential to give life. Just one organ donor can save and heal the lives of up to eight people through organ donation and countless others through tissue donation. To register to become an organ, eye and tissue donor you can visit <http://www.DonateLifeVirginia.org>.

Braddock Road Construction

As you may have noticed, traffic signs along Braddock Road have begun alerting motorists to forthcoming changing traffic patterns. It is important to note that this work has nothing to do with the ongoing Braddock Road study, but rather is a separate project altering turn lanes.

The project is extending the turn lanes from eastbound Braddock Road to northbound Wakefield Chapel Road as well as the left turns from westbound Braddock Road to southbound Danbury Forest Drive. Beginning Thursday, March 17th, the striping company will begin to eradicate existing pavement markings and set temporary markings. The project will be done no later than May 31st, but is expected sooner. Mostly, the work will consist of paving and laying new lane markings as well as removing and rebuilding the concrete median strip that sits between Danbury and Wakefield to allow longer turning queues. It will not touch the grassy median strips either to the east or west of the project area. Following this work, the “Don’t Block the Box” markings will be reapplied. There will be no lane closures during rush hour, but work will occur between 9:30 am and 3 pm.

Braddock Road Community Meeting on April 25th

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation is hosting a community meeting with an open house format to discuss the development of the Braddock Road study and provide updates for residents. The meeting will also discuss the next steps of the project, such as planning for roadway alternatives, transit center alternatives, and pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. The meeting will take place on April 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria at Lake Braddock Secondary School. More information about the study, and frequently asked questions, can be found [here](#).

John Hudson Internship Program Now Accepting Applications

The John Hudson Internship Program is an internship program in Fairfax County Government for college students and recent graduates with disabilities. The internship program is named in honor of the late John Hudson. John was the special needs planner in Fairfax County's Office of Emergency Management and during his 15 years with Fairfax County Government, John made immeasurable improvements to enhance the lives of people with disabilities in the Fairfax area.

There are different types of internships available in the fields of [outreach](#), [information](#), and [communications](#). Application materials are due on April 17, 2016. Please refer to the [FAQs](#) if you have questions about the program. If your question is not addressed or you need a reasonable accommodation, contact Jill Clark at jill.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-5874.

Braddock District Seeks Committed, Caring Citizens for Advisory Boards

Braddock District Supervisor John Cook is looking for involved citizens to help their community by applying to join one of the many advisory committees that serve the Board of Supervisors. The advisory committees available cover the areas of [social welfare](#), [organ and tissue donation](#), and [airports](#). These committees provide information and advice to the Board of Supervisors and their committees. Interested candidates should apply to Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov with a resume!

Braddock Neighborhood News

Supervisor Cook hosts a monthly television show, Braddock Neighborhood News, on Fairfax County Channel 16 which is available on most cable networks. Each month, Supervisor Cook invites topical guests on to share pertinent and informative items with the viewers.

We are fortunate here in Fairfax County to enjoy some of the nation's best Police and Fire Departments. Supervisor Cook has recently been appointed to be the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee, with oversight over police, fire, 911, animal control, and emergency management. On this show, Supervisor Cook was honored to have Chief Ed Roessler of the Fairfax County Police Department and Chief Richard Bowers from the Fairfax County Fire Department.



The shows air throughout the month and can be seen Sundays at 5pm, Wednesdays at 7pm and Fridays at 5pm.

Supervisor Cook in the Community

Fairfax NAACP Open House: On February 6th, Supervisor Cook attended an Open House for the Fairfax County NAACP which was held in the Kings Park Library.

Opening Ceremony for Chinese New Year's Festival: On February 6th, Supervisor Cook took part in the Opening Ceremony for the Chinese New Year's Festival which was held at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church.



Annual President's Ball: Supervisor Cook attended the Annual President's Ball put on by the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association.

Opening Ceremony of New Year Festival: On February 7th, Supervisor Cook took part in the Opening Ceremony for the 2016 Vietnamese New Year Festival which was held at Jeb Stuart High School on February 6th.

Diversion First Press Conference: On February 11th, Supervisor Cook was part of a Media Event for the new Diversion First Program which is a joint effort between Fairfax County, the Fairfax Sheriff's Office and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. The event was held

at the new Merrifield location for the CSB. You can read more about the event and Diversion First in this article from the [Fairfax Times](#).

Annual Stuff the Bus: On February 13th, Supervisor Cook stopped by the Giant at Cardinal Forest to help out with the Stuff the Bus event that was raising food for local homeless people.

Youth for Tomorrow Heart to Heart Gala: On February 13th, Supervisor Cook attended the Joe Gibbs Youth for Tomorrow Heart to Heart Gala which was held at the Ritz Carlton in Tysons.

Valentine Blood Drive: On February 14th, Supervisor Cook rolled up his sleeves and gave blood at the 7th Annual Valentine Blood Drive which is put on each year by the Red Cross and the Friends of Sadie, a local Burke group of families who have a personal connection to this cause.

Future Business Leaders of America Program: On February 17th, Supervisor Cook was invited to take part in the Future Business Leaders of America program at Robinson Secondary School. He talked to the teachers and students

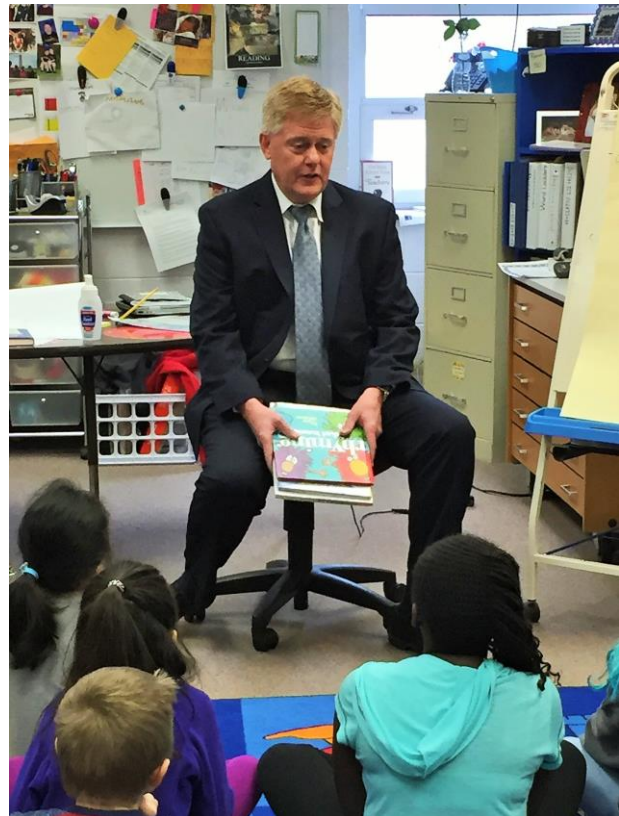


and also helped judge some of the actual projects they had been working on.

Leadership Fairfax Graduates Meeting: On February 18th, Supervisor Cook attended and spoke at a meeting of the recent Leadership Fairfax graduates and he addressed work force development issues in his remarks.

Read Across America Week: On February 29th, Supervisor Cook stopped by Cardinal Forest Elementary School and took part in Read Across America Week by sharing a story with the kids.

Braddock District NVCC Wakefield Chapel Road Forum: On February 14th, Supervisor Cook attended the Braddock District NVCC Wakefield Chapel Road Forum, which was held on the Annandale Campus of NV CC.



Land Use Update

Heritage Mall. (Plan Amendment #2016-I-A1)
On March 2, 2016 Supervisor Cook hosted a **Community Information Meeting** on a proposal by the Webb Companies and Madison Homes to amend the existing Comprehensive Plan guidance for the Heritage Mall. Over 40 area residents attended the meeting.

Heritage Mall is a 10.99 acre property located on the west side of Heritage Drive. The eastern part of this property is currently developed with a retail shopping and office center. The western portion of the Property includes a parking lot, a former service station, a convenience store and undeveloped open space currently used as a parking lot. The site is currently zoned C-6 (Community Retail District). Madison Homes is contract purchaser and will own this land outright if entitlements are approved. The Comprehensive Plan, as

amended in 2005, allows for up to 200 multi-family housing units and intensification of the commercial uses. A representative of the current owners, the Webb Companies, described how it had recently made a \$4 million investment to upgrade the Center and its tenant mix.

The owner is now proposing to develop the rear parking lot with 68 townhouses, which it described as an aesthetic improvement and an opportunity for 'lifestyle changes'. The existing 7-Eleven store would close, and 96 spaces in the back of the Mall would be retained for retail patrons. The project would create a safer environment for pedestrians by providing additional lighting and sidewalks. Webb Companies stated its intent to create a Community Resource Center in the Mall itself. The owner also intends to enhance the patio

area on Heritage Drive side of property to serve as a community focal point.

Comments and suggestions by the community included requests for sustainable stormwater management improvements, traffic management, and better connectivity through the new development to the retail commercial businesses. Citizens asked for a traffic impact analysis and for data on the impacts to schools. Residents stated that parking on the weekends was sometimes difficult and that attention to a secondary peak hour when Annandale High School is released should be examined.

Xie Special Exception (SE-2015-BR-015) for 4008 Taylor Drive. In September, Supervisor Cook presented a Board Matter to his colleagues raising concerns with a Special Exception Application that had been filed by Suoliang Xie to establish a Congregate Care facility at 4008 Taylor Drive for international students between the ages of 14 and 18. This application was filed after the owner was cited for a number of violations of the Zoning Ordinance.

Subsequently, a multi-disciplinary group of professional staff, including the Zoning Administrator and representatives from the County Attorney's office, the Department of

Human Services and the Department of Code Compliance met to respond to the concerns that he had raised.

Upon investigation, it was determined that there was no state or federal agency charged with oversight or licensing requirements for this type of use. On January 27, 2016 the



Zoning Administrator rescinded her determination that this was a congregate care facility and reinstated her initial determination that this was, in effect, a boarding house. The Applicant was given 30 days to appeal this determination. On February 29, the applicant's attorney withdrew the application. This case is no longer active and there will be no public hearings.

Human Services Corner

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is hosting a series of free tax relief workshops in March at several locations throughout the county. Real estate tax relief is available for older adults and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications. You also may be eligible for car tax relief and tax relief for renters.

County staff from the Department of Tax Administration (DTA) will be at the locations listed below to assist with filling out the application form, as well as answering questions. The schedule is by district and you may contact the phone numbers listed below for more information on a workshop. All phone numbers are TTY 711.

More information on tax relief can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta>, or call 703-222-8234 (TTY 703-222-7594).

[Additional Information and Deadlines](#)

[Audio: Understanding Tax Relief](#)

[Spanish Language Audio: Understanding Tax Relief](#)

Tax Center Locations and Information

Braddock District

Hosted by Supervisor John Cook
March 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. No appointment necessary.
Kings Park Library
9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke
703-425-9300
703-478-0283

March 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Sully District Governmental Center
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly
703-814-7100

Mason District

Hosted by Supervisor Penelope Gross
March 16 and 18, 9 a.m. to noon. No appointment necessary.
Mason District Governmental Center
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale
703-256-7717

Providence District

Hosted by Supervisor Linda Smyth
March 14 and 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Providence Community Center
3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax
703-560-6946

Springfield District

Hosted by Supervisor Pat Herrity
March 25, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. No appointment necessary.
West Springfield Governmental Center
6140 Rolling Road, Springfield
703-451-8873

Sully District

Hosted by Supervisor Kathy Smith

March is Women's History Month

During Women's History Month, we honor the countless women who sacrificed and strived to ensure all people have an equal shot at pursuing the American dream. Though we have made great progress toward achieving gender equality, work remains to be done. We strive to remember the trailblazers of the past, including the women who are not recorded in our history books, and we honor their legacies by carrying forward the valuable lessons learned from the powerful examples they set.

The month of March is designated by Congress, the President of the United States, and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, as Women's History Month and this year's theme is "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government,". Each and every day, we have the pleasure of witnessing firsthand your remarkable contributions and achievements that benefit us all and even during difficult times, you continue working hard to find innovative solutions to complex issues. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we want to thank you for your service!

Community Events throughout March

March 15 - Please join The Arc of Northern Virginia, People First of Northern Virginia, and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board for a morning reception on Tuesday, March 15 to celebrate the proclamation of March 2015 as "Including Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities" Month. This event celebrates and promotes employment and volunteer opportunities and many other ways that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are an important and valued part of our community. The reception will begin at 8:30 a.m. before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Real Food for Kids

Culinary Challenge & Wellness Expo

Workshops, presentations, demonstrations and more

Sat MARCH 12 10am-2pm

Robinson Secondary School

[Register Here!](#)

Aging in Place Presentation

Library Resources

9002 Burke Lake Road

Wednesday, March 16th at 1 PM

Shepherd's Center

Fairfax-Burke

Lunch N' Life

March, 17th 12:00pm-2:00pm

Jubilee Christian Church

4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax

Are you 50 or better? Please join us for the next Lunch N' Life sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke to hear our guest speaker, Fairfax County Braddock District Supervisor, John C. Cook. For reservations, call Faye Quesenbery at 703-620-0161, by March 11th. If transportation is needed please call the SCFB office at 703-323-4788.

Dementia Caregivers Support Group

Provided by Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke

2nd Tuesday of Each Month ---12:00 to 1:15pm

Lord of Life Lutheran Church – 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

Living Well Aging Well Summit

Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

This free event will allow you to explore multiple ways to age well. The summit will feature a transportation and mobility expo, technology fair, volunteer opportunities, a CarFit program, health screenings, presentations and more. [Register Now](#).

Fairfax 50+ Employment Expo

Monday, April 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Meet dozens of job recruiters at the Sheraton Tysons Hotel at Tysons Corner, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Attend seminars on changing careers, online job searching, continuing education, starting your own business, job training, and job interviewing. The keynote speaker will be Chief Meteorologist Doug Hill of ABC 7/WJLA-TV News. The event is sponsored by the Jewish Council for the Aging, Fairfax County and community partners. Free admission and parking. No registration necessary – just show up! [Find our more!](#)

Inside Out – A Photography Project at Bonnie Brae

On March 2, 2011, French artist, JR won the Technology, Entertainment, Design (TED) prize at the TED Conference in Long Beach, California, and called for the creation of a global participatory art project with the potential to change the world. This project is called INSIDE OUT.

Inspired by JR's large-format street "pastings", INSIDE OUT gives everyone the opportunity to share their portrait and make a statement for what they stand for. It is a global platform for people to share their stories and transform messages of personal identity and beliefs into works of public art. Each INSIDE OUT group action around the world is documented, archived and exhibited online. Nearly 200,000 people from more than 112 countries & territories have participated.

From this international, creative idea came the idea of the photographs of Bonnie Brae students and community members. Through this very powerful message, students feel proud of their school, their community and most importantly, proud of themselves. At Bonnie Brae, it is the belief that educating our students is more than just academics. It's about instilling pride, satisfaction, a sense of community and belonging.

In partnership with Supervisor Cook's office, Bonnie Brae Elementary and the Pinn Center/Burke-West Springfield Senior Center without Walls invites you to join them for a community gluing event, Saturday, April 30 from 10 am-1 pm at Bonnie Brae Elementary, in which they will adhere nearly 60 enlarged photos of Bonnie Brae students and community members to the sidewalk surrounding Bonnie Brae Elementary. This effort will be a statement of the pride we all feel for the Bonnie Brae community.

"I wish for you to stand up for what you care about by participating in a global art project, and together we will change the world...INSIDE OUT." -JR.

Spring Parks Registration is Now On!

Registration is now open for a vast variety of spring activities and classes including aquatics, fitness, fine arts, gardening, dance, hikes, and so much more!

Of special note are opportunities to combine your interests. For instance there's a Poetry Sketch Walk at Huntley Meadows Park on April 2 that combines nature study, poetry and drawing and a Guided Meditation in Nature program at Riverbend Park and Scott's Rune Nature Preserve.

Don't miss the special senior programs featuring aerobics, volleyball, weight training, yoga and Zumba. And, as you anticipate warmer temps, consider registering for one or more of the Park's popular day trips and tours.

[Register online](#), call 703-222-4664, or visit your [local center](#).

Environmental Update

March Stream Monitoring Events

There will be three local monitoring workshops in March. Hope you can join us at one (or more)!

-Saturday, March 12, 9:30 - 11:30am: Creek near Lake Accotink, Springfield

-Saturday, March 19, 10am - 12:30pm: Cub Run, Centreville/Chantilly area

-Sunday, March 20, 1:30 - 4pm: South Run, West Springfield/Burke area

2016 Seedling Sale: Place Your Orders Now!

The Conservation District's Annual Seedling Sale makes low-cost, bare-root native shrub and tree seedlings available to Northern Virginia residents. The Shrub and Small Tree Package features 10 seedlings for \$16.95. The Tree Package contains six seedlings for \$11.95. The theme of both is "Back By Popular Demand." Customers often tell us about favorite seedlings from past years, so this year's sale feature shrubs and trees that have been some of the most popular and most requested year after year. Pictures and descriptions of the included seedlings and an online order form can be found on the [District's website](#).

2016 Potomac River Watershed Cleanup

The Alice Ferguson Foundation's 28th annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup is coming up this

April! Volunteer groups throughout the Potomac Watershed will be organizing hundreds of affiliated community litter cleanups in the DC metro area throughout April and May, with most occurring on Saturday April 16th. If you'd like to organize your own cleanup or volunteer at an established cleanup, instructions are available on the [Ferguson Foundation's website](#).

Apply Now for Funding for Your HOA's Conservation Landscaping Project

Want to do something environmentally friendly on your civic association property? Is heavy runoff causing distress in your neighborhood association? Do you have poor energy efficiency in your community's club house? The Conservation District's new Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) can help. It provides technical assistance and 50% matching funding for qualifying projects. The first step in your application is to organize a site visit by District staff. For summer or fall 2016 landscaping projects, please submit a site visit request by March 14th! Visit the CAP program webpage at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/cap/>.

Register Your School Now for the 2016 School Environmental Action Showcase!

The 5th annual School Environmental Action Showcase will be held on Wednesday, April 6 at George Mason University. It is a great way for staff and students from Alexandria, Arlington, Falls Church, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William schools to highlight their environmental initiatives and learn from others. Here are the opportunities for students to participate in SEAS 2016:

- General Showcase: Promote Your Schools stewardship projects
- SEAS Video Visions: A short film festival of students' green visions
- Caring for Our Watersheds: Present watershed improvement plans and compete for prizes
- KidWind: Design and test your own wind turbine
- High School Track: Tour GMU facilities and discuss STEM/sustainability careers

Hurry! School registration is only open until [Friday, March 18](#).

Explore the Fishes of Fairfax County

While Fairfax County's stream monitoring program looks at the invertebrates that live in the stream bottom, a wide variety of fish also make their home in Fairfax County streams. The county's Department of Storm Water Planning has put together a [web page](#) that includes pictures, descriptions, distribution maps, and a downloadable poster of all fish species found in the county. Hard copies of the poster can also be ordered.

Remove Invasive Plants from Fairfax County's Natural Areas

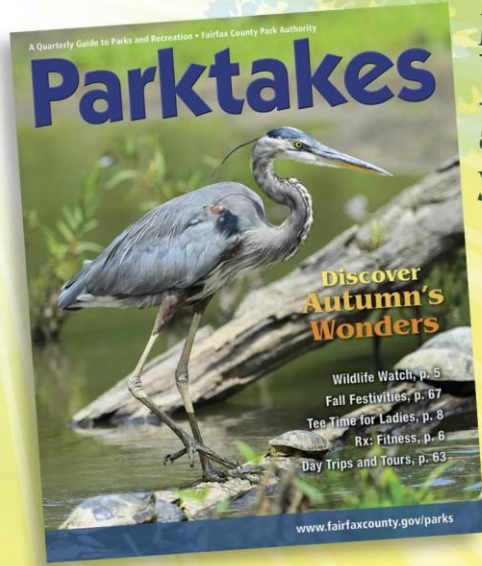
Invasive invaders such as kudzu, wisteria and stilt grass are pushing out important native flora and diminishing the health of our parklands. Help turn the tide against these exotic invaders by joining the Invasive Management Area (IMA) volunteers and pulling these weeds out by their roots. Thirteen workdays are scheduled in March. The IMA volunteer calendar can be [found online](#).

Sign up to receive Parktakes – Free!

Fairfax County Park Authority Offers Free, Informative Guide!

Parktakes nature guide has all the best kept secrets of Fairfax County, including the best lakes and trails, water parks, skate parks, and even mini golf! Call 703-222-4664 or visit

<https://parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov/newmember.asp> for your free subscription!




Make Parks a Part of your Nature!

Sign up to get **Parktakes**, your FREE guide to parks and recreation in Fairfax County.

You'll be amazed at the wide variety of leisure opportunities just moments from your front door!

- Lakes and Trails
- Boating and Fishing
- Camps and Classes
- Golf and Sports
- Exercise and Fitness
- Nature and History
- Water Parks and Skate Parks
- Mini golf, Carousels and Trains
- Gardening and Special Events
- ... and so much more!



Get your **FREE** Parktakes guide by mail or by e-mail and let the fun begin!

To sign up, call **703-222-4664** or visit <https://parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov/newmember.asp>